



SENATE JUDICIARY
Exhibit No. 7
Date 3-30-02
Bill No. HB 340

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION
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STATE & LOCAL AFFAIRS DIVISION
BRIAN JUDY, MONTANA STATE LIAISON

TO: Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee
FROM: Brian Judy, NRA-ILA Montana State Liaison
DATE: March 28, 2007
RE: House Bill 340 (Self-defense/Right to Keep & Bear Arms) - **SUPPORT**

On behalf of the more than 27,000 National Rifle Association members who live in the State of Montana, I would like to register strong support for House Bill 340. This bill has been significantly amended on numerous occasions to address the concerns of opponents. At this point, I urge that the bill be passed as proposed to be amended by the sponsor before your committee this morning with no further amendments. Self-defense is a fundamental right. Law-abiding citizens should be afforded every opportunity to defend themselves and their loved ones and they should not be treated like criminals if they choose to exercise this important right.

House Bill 340 started out as a broad bill that provided a number of specific protections for law-abiding citizens. Although drastically pared back, the remaining provisions of HB 340 still facilitate the right of self-defense by law-abiding citizens. In summary, House Bill 340 does the following:

- 1) Clarifies the ability of law-abiding citizens to carry a firearm in plain view and to display the firearm for harmless defensive purposes;
- 2) Allows a person who can lawfully possess a firearm and who doesn't use it to commit a criminal offense to carry it concealed anywhere in the state without first obtaining governmental permission;
- 3) Clarifies in statute the existing legal precedent that there is no duty to retreat from a threat before exercising the right to self-defense; and
- 4) Allows a law-abiding citizen to use reasonable force in exercising the existing law that gives a private person the authority to arrest an offender.

Tip the scales of justice in favor of law-abiding citizens and send a strong message to criminals that they risk everything by engaging in unlawful activity.

Please support House Bill 340 with no additional amendments.